

## **FACT SHEET**

### **FINAL AMENDMENTS TO THE AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR SITE REMEDiation**

#### **ACTION**

- On November 22, 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated amendments to its rule to control air toxics emissions from site remediation activities. Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health and environmental problems. The final amendments are posted at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>.
- Site remediation involves the removal of hazardous substances from contaminated media (soil or groundwater), removal of the contaminated media itself, or removal of the hazardous substances by themselves. Site remediation can be conducted at industrial facilities such as chemical manufacturing facilities, petroleum refineries, and metal finishers, government facilities such as military installations and other facilities.
- The final amendments would change one aspect of the rule which currently requires owners or operators to measure the organic hazardous air pollutant content in the remediation material at the point of extraction. EPA is amending the final rule to require that measurements be done at the point of treatment. The Agency originally proposed the point of treatment option on July 30, 2002 and received no adverse comments. The Agency believes this change to the rule would not be controversial.
- The final amendments would not change the emissions reductions required by the final rule. EPA estimates the rule will reduce emissions of air toxics by 50 percent from current levels. This rule will also reduce volatile organic compound emissions by about 50 percent from current levels. These air pollutants contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, the primary constituent of smog. When inhaled, even at very low levels, ground-level ozone can cause acute respiratory problems, aggravate asthma, reduce lung capacity, inflame lung tissue, and impair the body's immune system.
- No additional costs are associated with the amendments. EPA estimates the total nationwide capital cost for facilities to comply with the rule to be \$17.6 million. The total nationwide annual cost will be approximately \$8.2 million.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAA), require EPA to regulate sources of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. The CAA also requires EPA to identify industrial or "source" categories that emit one or more of these pollutants.

- EPA published the final rule for site remediation on October 8, 2003.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Interested parties can download the notice from EPA's web site on the Internet at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>.
- Today's final action and other background information are also available either electronically at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), the federal government's docket management system, or in hard copy at EPA West, U.S. EPA (6102T), 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460. (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0021 (Legacy Docket ID No. A-99-20)). The Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center is (202) 566-1742.
- For further information about the proposed rule, contact Mr. Greg Nizich of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards by phone (919) 541-3078 or by e-mail at [nizich.greg@epa.gov](mailto:nizich.greg@epa.gov).